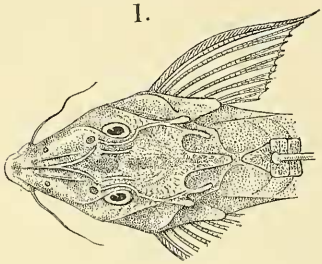
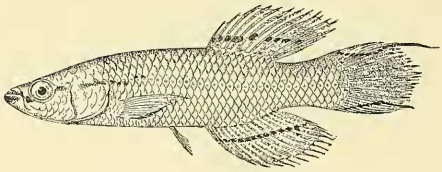
1.





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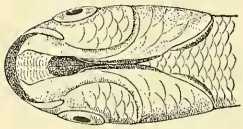

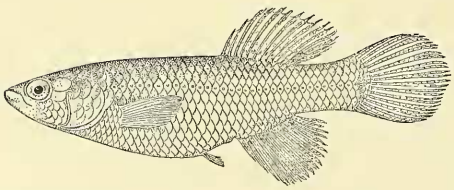

3.

J. Green, del.

NEW WEST-AFRICAN FISHES.

1. PHRACTURA ANSORGII. 2. FUNDULUS GULARIS, male.
3. FUNDULUS GULARIS, female.

7. Descriptions of two new Fishes discovered by Dr. W. J. Ansorge in Southern Nigeria. By G. A. Boulenger, F.R.S.

[Received November 15, 1901.]

(Plate XXXVII.[1])

Phractura ansorgii. (Plate XXXVII. fig. 1.)

Depth of body 10 times in total length, length of head 5 times. Head $1\frac{1}{2}$ as long as broad; skull rugose, covered with thin skin; a median ridge on the snout, bifurcating towards the interorbital region; snout a little longer than the postocular part of the head, pointed, projecting beyond the mouth; anterior nostril three times as distant from the end of the snout as the posterior from the eye; eye supero-lateral, its diameter 7 times in length of head, $1\frac{2}{3}$ in interocular width; maxillary barbel $\frac{1}{2}$ length of head, mandibulars shorter. Occipital process twice and a half as long as broad, narrowly separated from interneural shield. Dorsal I 6, first ray longest, as long as head; second dorsal very small. Anal I 10. Pectoral as long as head, nearly reaching base of ventral; latter a little shorter, nearly reaching anal. Caudal with crescentic notch. Caudal peduncle a little depressed, $\frac{1}{3}$ total length. 26 dorsal and 22 ventral scutes, the last 11 on the caudal peduncle. Pale brownish above, speckled with blackish, white beneath; two small blackish spots on the dorsal and two blackish streaks along the caudal.

Total length 46 millim.

A single specimen from Agberi, obtained in September 1901, along with other small fishes, by means of a native fishing-basket dipped in shallow creeks and flooded yam-plantations.

This is the third species of the genus *Phractura* Blgr., previously known from the Congo only. It differs from both *P. bovei* Perugia, and *P. scaphirhynchura* Vaill., in the greater number of rays to the anal (11 instead of 8), and of scutes on the body and caudal peduncle, and in the posterior nostril being much nearer the eye; from *P. bovei* in the much larger eye.

Fundulus gularis. (Plate XXXVII. figs. 2 & 3.)

Depth of body equal to, or a little less than, length of head, $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 times in total length. Snout as long as eye; lower jaw but feebly projecting beyond the upper; diameter of eye $3\frac{3}{4}$ to 4 times in length of head, twice in interorbital width. Dorsal 15–16, originating at nearly equal distance from the head and from the base of the caudal, longest rays about $\frac{2}{3}$ length of head in females, $\frac{2}{3}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ in males. Anal 16–18, opposed to dorsal, the rays about as long as those of the latter. Pectoral nearly $\frac{3}{4}$ length of head, in males reaching beyond base of ventral

[1] For explanation of the Plate, see p. 624.

latter very small, with 6 rays. Caudal rounded, $\frac{3}{4}$ or $\frac{4}{5}$ length of head; one of the upper rays may be produced in the males. Caudal peduncle a little longer than deep. 30 or 31 scales in a longitudinal series, 12 or 13 in a transverse series; a series of pits represents the lateral line. Pale olive-brown above, white below; females uniform, or with a few reddish-brown dots on the dorsal and on the base of the anal. Males with a purple band on each side of the head, passing round to the other side over the lower jaw, and a median band of the same colour behind the chin, on the branchiostegal membrane; small carmine-red spots or vermiculations on the side of the head behind the eye, and often small spots of the same colour on the body; a streak or a series of spots of crimson along the dorsal and anal and usually two, converging behind, on the caudal, the latter fin being grey between the streaks and pure white outside them; lower border of pectoral sometimes crimson.

Total length 63 millim. No difference in size between the sexes.

Numerous specimens were obtained in September 1901 at Agberi in shallow creeks and flooded yam-plantations.

This species is most nearly related to *F. sjoestedti* Lönnberg, from Camaroon, which has 17 or 18 rays to the dorsal fin, 35 scales in the lateral line, and the posterior dorsal and anal rays much produced and filamentous in the males. The rudimentary pseudobranchiæ, which exist in the East-African *F. orthonotus* Peters and *F. guentheri* Pfeff., and on which Peters's genus *Nothobranchius* is founded, are not to be found in *F. gularis*.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE XXXVII.

Fig. 1. *Phractura ansorgii*, with enlarged upper view of head, p. 623.
2. *Fundulus gularis*, male, with enlarged lower view of head, p. 623.
3. Ditto, female.

December 17, 1901.

Prof. G. B. Howes, LL.D., F.R.S., Vice-President, in the Chair.

A communication was read from Mr. G. Metcalfe, M.A., drawing attention to the following entry in the 'Proceedings' for 1893 (p. 505):—"The Hon. Walter Rothschild, F.Z.S., exhibited and made remarks upon . . . . a specimen of the egg of the Duckbill (*Ornithorhynchus anatinus*) stated to have been taken out of the pouch of the mother in Queensland." A statement that the Duckbill laid its eggs in its burrow had also been placed on the label of the specimens in the Natural History Museum.